

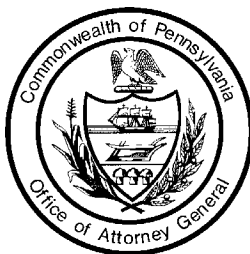
## WATCH OUT FOR CON ARTISTS

- ✓ Don't fall for anything that sounds too good to be true — a free vacation, sweepstakes prizes, cures for cancer and arthritis, a low-risk, high-yield investment scheme.
- ✓ Never give your credit card, phone card, Social Security, or bank account number to anyone over the phone. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to verify a prize or gift.
- ✓ Don't let anyone rush you into signing anything — an insurance policy, a sales agreement, or a contract. Read it carefully and have someone you trust check it over.
- ✓ Beware of individuals claiming to represent companies, consumer organizations, or government agencies that offer to recover lost money from fraudulent telemarketers for a fee.
- ✓ If you're suspicious, check it out with the police, the Better Business Bureau or my Bureau of Consumer Protection at 1-800-441-2555.

## BE ALERT, BE INFORMED AND BE INVOLVED

**Report any crime or suspicious activities to law enforcement. Join a Neighborhood Watch to look out for each other and help the police. Work to improve conditions in your neighborhood.**

**Does your community have a "Triad" Program? It's sponsored on a national level by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). Triad promotes partnerships between senior citizens and the law enforcement community, in an effort to prevent crime against the elderly and to help law enforcement benefit from the talents of older people. If you're interested, contact your chief of police, sheriff, or AARP chapter or call Triad at 703-836-7827.**



**Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General  
Consumer Hotline: 1-800-441-2555**

**Web Page Address:  
[www.attorneygeneral.gov](http://www.attorneygeneral.gov)**

# SAFE SENIORS



**Jerry Pappert  
Attorney General**



*Many older Pennsylvanians live in constant fear of crime. Their lives are spent behind locked doors and windows,*

*rather than in the neighborhoods they helped to build. Often, their fears are not unfounded.*

*Research indicates that older people are more likely to be the victims of certain crimes: fraud, strong-arm robbery, purse-snatching, mailbox theft, vandalism and harassing phone calls.*

*All older Pennsylvanians need to protect themselves from these types of crime. Please help us to help you by following the common-sense precautions addressed in this brochure.*

Gerald J. Pappert  
Attorney General

## BE ALERT WHEN OUT AND ABOUT

- \* Go with friends or family, not alone.
- \* Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- \* Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash.
- \* Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks.
- \* Whether you're a passenger or driver, keep car doors locked. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance.
- \* Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus, train or subway.
- \* If someone or something makes you uneasy, trust your instincts and leave.

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## MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE

Install good locks on doors and windows. Use them! Don't hide keys in mailboxes and planters or under doormats. Instead, leave an extra set of keys with a close friend or relative.

**Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in. If you are the least bit worried, call the company to verify their identity.**

**Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction and well-lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.**

**Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire and medical emergencies.**